

see how such remarkable students can thrive at Thomas Stone High School.

The faculty and staff, along with the students, are responsible for this honor. Principal Heath Morrison as well as the five Vice Principals: Janice Johnson, Ellen Linton, Curry Werkheiser, Wendell Martin, and Frazier Nelson all helped to encourage the students to strive for and achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Stone High School has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to its entire student body by offering numerous courses that provoke the minds of each and every student. I would like to congratulate Thomas Stone High School on achieving such an honor and wish the faculty, staff, and students continued success in the future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
ALISA L. FELLHAUER ON HER
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alisa L. Fellhauer of Port Clinton, OH, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Alisa's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alisa brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force Academy cadets. While attending Port Clinton High School, Port Clinton, OH, Alisa has attained a grade point average of 3.88, which places her thirteenth in her class of one hundred sixty one students. During her time at Port Clinton High School, Alisa has received several commendations for her superior scholastic efforts. During her first year, she received the Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award. Her second year was marked by her being again awarded the Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award as well as being inducted into the National Honor Society. Alisa went on in her senior year to maintain her role in the National Honor Society as well being selected for participation in a highly selective biology program.

Outside the classroom, Alisa has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Port Clinton. On the fields of friendly strife, Alisa has participated in Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Basketball, and Varsity Softball. She is a three time Cross Country letter recipient and served as the Team Captain her senior year. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Alisa is an active member in her community participating in Key Club, Future Professionals in Medicine, National Honor Society, Relay for Life, and the Buckeye Girl's State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Alisa L. Fellhauer. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alisa will do very well during her career at Air Force and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING MR. JOHN WINGATE
GRIFFIN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. John Wingate Griffin on his retirement from the Federal Government after 32 years of dedicated service to this great country. His career exemplifies selfless public service at its best and is a model for existing and future Federal employees. He retired at the end of May 2003.

A fifth generation native Californian, Mr. Griffin was born on December 2, 1946. After graduating from high school in Ojai, California, he later continued his studies at Ventura College earning an Associate Degree in economics. He received his bachelor's degree of International Relations and Economics in June 1973 from California State University.

Mr. Griffin served his country honorably in the military for over 3 years with the United States Army. He continued his Federal career for an additional 28 plus years as an economist with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento and San Francisco, California. When he retired from the Corps, he was serving as Chief of Civil Works Program Development for the South Pacific Division where he had been employed since September 1986. In addition to leading a staff of economists and program analysts, Mr. Griffin presided over the largest Corps' Civil Works General Investigations program covering all or part of ten of the Nation's largest States and was a special advisor to the Division Commander. He provided regional oversight to four district program development activities located in Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles, California and Albuquerque, New Mexico. His knowledge of the General Investigations program, coupled with his analytical capabilities, placed him in a class by himself as a program expert. He maintained a personable attitude that contributed to overcoming numerous challenges and made even the most difficult tasks doable. As he is fond of saying, "one can disagree without being disagreeable." His advice was always on the mark.

Mr. Griffin will retire to his hometown of Auburn, California where he and his beloved wife, Daniela, had been active in their community for well over 30 years. Individually or together, they touched the lives of many in the community by serving on the planning commission, teaching in the public schools, contributing to fine dining experiences in Auburn through operation of their elegant restaurant, enjoying ballroom dancing, or helping others with expert mechanical advice on automobiles. They were the perfect couple and we express our deepest sorrow at Mr. Griffin's loss of Daniela earlier this year. We wish him a healthy, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. John Wingate Griffin on his retirement as he concludes a successful Federal career. We thank him again for a job well done, and for his many contributions to the Corps, the Army, and the Nation.

IN MEMORIAM OF MALDEF
FOUNDER PETE TIJERINA

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago Pete Tijerina, a bold and idealistic lawyer from, Laredo, Texas, started down a path that eventually led millions of Hispanics in this country towards access to educational and democratic opportunities and recognition in the eyes of the law. Today, it is with great sadness and a profound sense of gratitude that I rise to recognize the life of Pete Tijerina, who died on May 14, 2003. His legacy is our future.

As a graduate of St. Mary's Law School in San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Tijerina dedicated his career to fighting discrimination. His first efforts came as the State Civil Rights Chairman for San Antonio's LULAC Council, an organization he joined in 1946. While with the organization, he sought political solutions at the local level through interaction with school boards, city councils, and police departments. Hungry for change, Mr. Tijerina grew frustrated with the pace and progress of his efforts. He continued, however, to work diligently through the channels available to him until he could take no more.

In 1966, Mr. Tijerina took a bold step. At the time, he was representing an injured woman who lost half of her leg in an accident in Jourdan, Texas. Mr. Tijerina prepared his client and his case for trial. As trial drew near, it became clear that the court would not empanel a single Hispanic juror. He brought the matter to the attention of the local judge and was promised a more diverse jury pool.

When the trial reconvened at the end of that summer, the court produced two Hispanic jurors: one had been dead for 10 years and the other spoke no Spanish.

This experience led Mr. Tijerina on a crusade to end juror discrimination and secure the equal protection of the law for the Hispanic community. Armed with determination and faith in the American judicial system, Mr. Tijerina placed his own financial well being on the line and attempted to secure funds to protect the rights of Hispanics in the Southwestern United States.

After sending a young colleague to an NAACP convention to learn more about current legal tactics used to combat discrimination, Mr. Tijerina decided that what the Hispanic community needed was its own lawyers fighting its own cases. Because the community varied so much, nationwide, he believed that recruiting young Hispanics, who understood the unique challenges present in their neighborhoods, into the legal profession was crucial to ending discrimination once and for all. Mr. Tijerina worked closely with the NAACP to develop a strategy and find financial support.